

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /067 W

----- 091100

R 191158Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4396

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9090

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VS

SUBJ: PRG DELEGATION VISITS BANGKOK

REF : FBIS BK 180423Z MAY 75

1. A THREE-MAN PRG DELEGATION UNDER AMBASSADOR NGUYEN MINH PHUONG ARRIVED IN BANGKOK MAY 16 TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE RTG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE DELEGATION CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN INFORMALLY AT HIS RESIDENCE MAY 17. IT ALSO HELD TALKS MAY 17 AND 18 WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) UNDER SECRETARY PHAEN WANNAMETHI, AND INSPECTED THE FORMER GVN EMBASSY WHICH IS UNDER RTG CARE. THE DELEGATION IS DUE TO DEPART MAY 19.

2. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE PRG DELEGATION MAY 17, CHATCHAI TOLD THE PRESS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE RTG AND SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE CONTINUED TO EXIST, AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE RTG TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT RECOGNIZING THE PRG. CHATCHAI ALSO SAID THAT THE RTG WILL SEND A NEW AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON
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WHEN COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS BETWEEN BANGKOK AND SAIGON RESUME.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF A MEETING WITH THE DCM ON ANOTHER MATTER MAY 19, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING: THE RTG HAD INSISTED THAT RECOGNITION AND A FORMAL RELATIONSHIP PRECEDE THE DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES AT DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE PRG, BY CONTRAST, WANTED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES FIRST AND RELATIONS LATER. BECAUSE OF THIS DIFFERENCE, CHATCHAI DESCRIBED THE CURRENT TALKS AS EXPLORATORY AND NOT SUBSTANTIVE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD POINTED OUT THAT THE TITLE TO THE MILITARY AIRCRAFT THAT VNAF PILOTS HAD FLOWN TO THAILAND WAS IN DISPUTE SINCE THE U.S. HAD GIVEN THE AIRCRAFT TO THE FORMER GVN. THE RTG MADE NO PROMISE TO RETURN THEM TO THE PRG. THE RTG AGREED TO GIVE BACK OTHER ITEMS THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT SUPPLIED, SUCH AS COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. CHATCHAI SAID THE RTG FOUND THE PRG REPRESENTATIVES "TOUGH NEGOTIATORS."

4. PRACHA KUNAKASEM, THE MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL, TOLD THE DCM THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE MILITARY AIRCRAFT WAS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PRG.

5. COMMENT: PRACHA IS ATTEMPTING TO WASH RTG HANDS OF THE PROBLEM. CHATCHAI LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE RTG/PRG ENCOUNTER HAD BROKEN THE ICE BETWEEN THE TWO CONTENDORS, BUT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE ACCOMPLISHED.
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NNN

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